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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Gary Development Corp. Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2000

Boundary & Surrounding Properties

South: Grand Calumet River
North: EJ&E rail spur
East: EJ&E rail line, Indiana Toll Road is parallel to EJ&E
West: Cline Avenue and AMG Resources, Corp.

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



Site History

The property is an abandoned landfill, covering 55 acres. EPA said the land deed includes 62 acres. The owners requested an Indiana State Board of Health solid waste landfill permit; they stopped accepting waste in 1986. Rule I-5, the State's applicable solid waste rule, had no closure provision. During operation, EPA noted that operators illegally accepted hazardous waste. EPA imposed a \$127,000 penalty. Gary Development filed against EPA, opposing the Administrative Judge's order. The settlement resulted that Gary Development pay \$40,000 in a trust fund for closure.

EPA had the property owners install four groundwater monitoring wells. Mike Mikulka said that the owner installed the wells poorly; they dug a trench and placed the wells. These wells provide poor groundwater data. EPA states that the property owners covered the landfill with fly ash; however, the operator claims to have used a topsoil cover and seeded. In 1995, NIPSCO proposed installing a methane gas collection system. They installed 14 PVC headers, hoping to mine methane gas. NIPSCO did not begin the project.

EPA reports that the 1996 property owner still holds the title. EJ&E research shows that the property owner owes roughly \$300,000 in property taxes.

Site Conditions

Most of the property is flat and not covered. Depressions pond water around the site. A small pond, at least 30 feet deep, is on the north side. If the nearby DuPont site data has comparable flow, then Gary Development groundwater flows to the River. Ken Ross noted that the groundwater flow at the Conservation Chemical site is east and southeast. EJ&E representatives state that a drainage ditch connecting to the pond often saturates the railroad's ballast. Two years ago, EJ&E spent \$10,000 to clean the eastern ditch, which drains to the Grand Calumet River. AMG is concerned that the landfill leachate and contaminated groundwater will contaminate AMG property, particularly the location where AMG removed a pond.

Closure Options

EPA prepared a closure plan, following requirements for hazardous waste landfills. Mikulka can provide the information. Tom Daugherty, IDEM, prepared a tentative closure plan. The estimated total cost is \$2.5 to \$3 million.

- Leave pond, don't pump
- Cover area and depressions, stop leachate flow; minimum 2% slopes, maximum 33% slopes
 - 63,000 cubic yard structural fill, soil
 - two foot cover = 177,000 cubic yards clay material compacted to 1×10^{-5} cfs permeability; possibly substitute geosynthetic liner and one foot soil cover

- 40,000 cubic yards topsoil
- Drainage: follow natural drainage, add drains, 1800 feet
- Seed & vegetate 55 acres

Ken Ross said that the Gary/Chicago Airport may have soil, left from the maintenance hanger construction, available to use as cover. The Lake County Solid Waste Management District may provide soil from compost facilities. Indiana Department of Transportation has a Toll Road project nearby; INDOT might provide soils from that construction site. Mack Hosak (sp?), with the Toll Road Division, may be a contact.

The group discussed ways to phase in a full closure. The group suggested that adjacent property owners could have equipment, like a backhoe, available. A backhoe operator could help address leachate problems and build slops to reroute drainage.

Participants discussed the possibility of pumping, dredging and covering the Gary Development Corp pond. The group considered treating pond water on site, likely an expensive task.

IDEM suggested using a portion of the \$40,000 to install a groundwater monitoring system.

Next Steps

Everyone will think about equipment that they may lend to address site closure

Ken Ross will check what soils may be available for cover

Site Visit: April 7, 2000 – 10 am at site gate

3/10/00

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